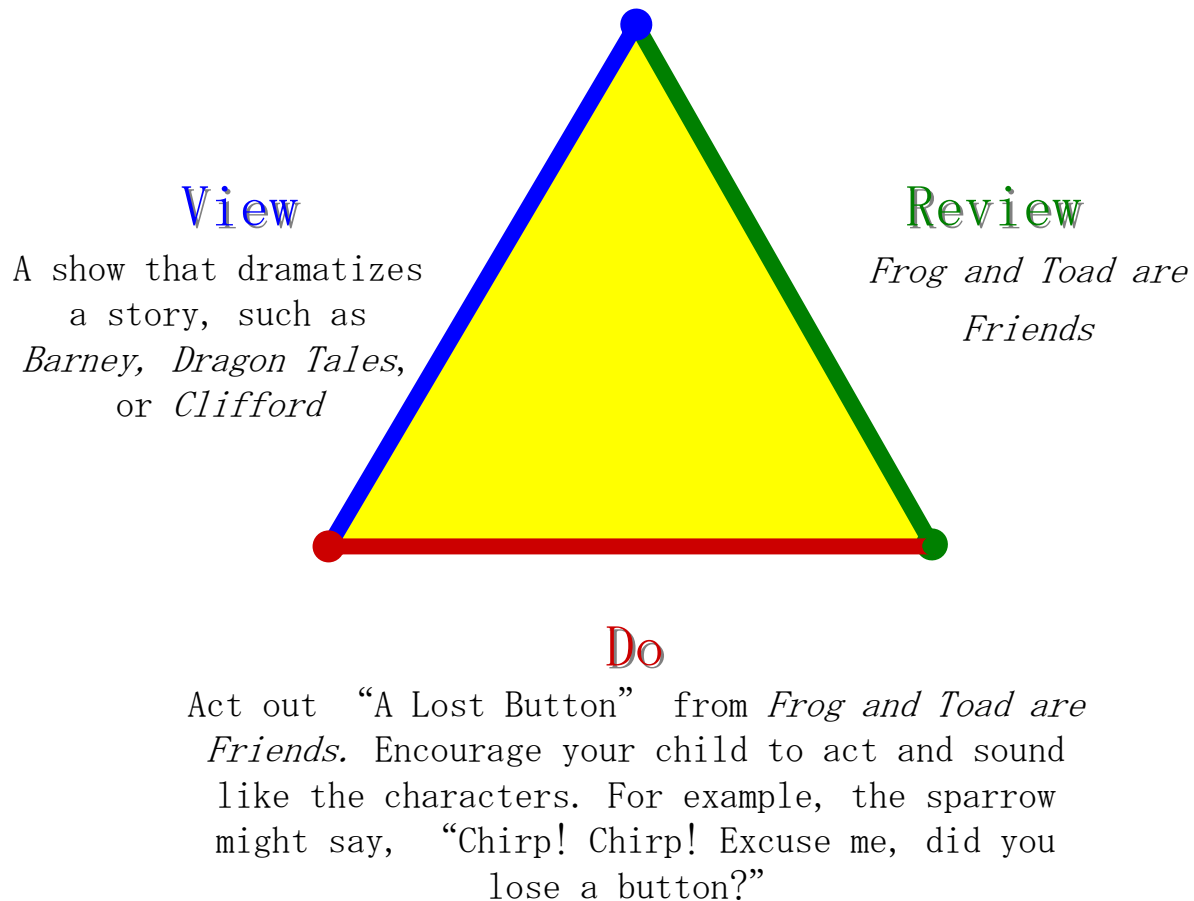


# Storytelling



Storytelling is just as important to your children as reading a book. In fact, for very young children, it is even more beneficial, because it allows them to imagine the stories as you share. They will learn language skills as they hear your voice and see your expressions. And it can be a wonderful bonding experience as you tell classic tales or stories about your own past that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

# Storytelling

## Why is it important to my child?

### Language

#### Development

Children can develop their language skills when they have opportunities to repeat phrases back to the storyteller or join in on a chorus.

Storytellers use a lot of repetitive phrases and gestures, giving children a chance to learn and practice them.

Stories often use words that children don't hear in everyday speech, so they learn new vocabulary.

### Social/Emotional Development

Storytellers can maintain eye contact with children as they speak, so they are able to interact more during the story, and the experience feels more personal.

Storytelling is an important social experience for children as they take turns listening and telling stories themselves.

### Cognitive

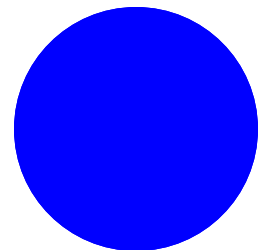
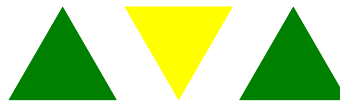
#### Development

When you tell your child a story rather than reading it from a book, it helps him develop his ability to understand stories.

Because stories have a beginning, middle, and an end, they teach children to think of the experiences they have as a whole.

### Physical Development

Many stories allow children to be involved with gestures and actions. This helps them be active and to develop coordination and gross motor skills.



Isbell, R., Sobol, J., Lindauer, L., & Lowrance, A. (2004). The effects of story telling and story reading on the oral language complexity and story comprehension of young children. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 32 (2), 157-163.

Speaker, K.M., Taylor, D., Kamen, R. (2004). Storytelling: Enhancing language acquisition in young children. *Education*, 125 (1), 3-14.

# Storytelling

## What can I do for my child?

### For babies to toddlers (0-2)

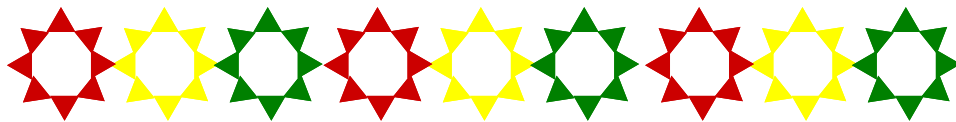
- ◆ Hold your baby in your lap while you tell a story.
- ◆ Use lots of facial expressions and keep eye contact with your baby.
- ◆ Use different voices as you speak. Babies can hear higher-pitched sounds more easily than low.
- ◆ Remember that if you use a prop, your baby will want to put it in her mouth!

### For toddlers (2-4)

- ◆ Plan for story time to happen when they are starting to get sleepy and quiet down, such as after bath time or during a meal.
- ◆ Try acting out stories as you tell them, and have your child join in.
- ◆ Tell stories on topics that are meaningful to your toddler, such as potty-training, their pets, your own history, or even about your toddler himself.
- ◆ Or, tell a fictional story, but make your toddler the star!

### For older children (4-5)

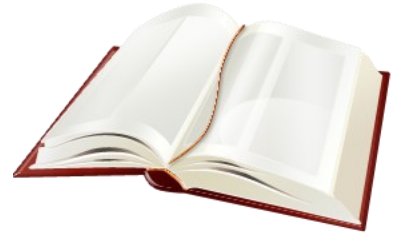
- ◆ Follow up the story with a related activity. (Use the Learning Triangle!)
- ◆ Ask your child questions about the story.
- ◆ Talk with your child about the characters' emotions to help them learn to identify emotions in themselves and others.
- ◆ Let your child tell you the story after they hear it. This helps with their memory, language development, and imagination.



### References

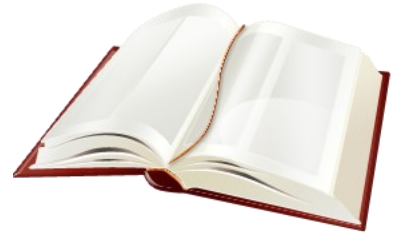
- 10 tips for making storytime memorable.* Retrieved from [http://education.preschoolrock.com/index.php/language\\_and\\_reading/10\\_tips\\_for\\_making\\_story\\_time\\_memorable](http://education.preschoolrock.com/index.php/language_and_reading/10_tips_for_making_story_time_memorable)
- McDowell, K. (2006). *Babies' lap time.* Retrieved from <http://katemcdowell.com/laptime/Tips/tips.html>
- Shinn, L. (2009). Reading with toddlers: Storytime tips for wiggly kids. Retrieved from <http://www.parentmap.com/content/view/1208>

# Storytelling Booklist



<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
A Bad Case of Stripes	David Shannon	I' m Still Here in the Bath-tub	Alan Katz
A Bug, a Bean, and a Boy Fly a Kite	David McPhail	Kisses	Nanda Roep & Marijke ten Cate
Abiyoyo	Pete Seeger	The Lion and the Mouse	Bernadette Watts
Alligator Baby	Robert Munsch	The Little Red Hen	Illustrated by J.P. Miller
Andrew' s Loose Tooth	Robert Munsch	Little White Duck	Walt Whippo
Barnyard Banter	Denise Fleming	Magic Fish	Freya Littledale
Big Mamas	Donald Crews	Missing Mittens	Stuart J. Murphy
The Big Wide-Mouthed Frog	Ana Martin Larranaga	Mmm, Cookies	Robert Munsch
Cinderella' s Dress	Nancy Willard	Mmm, I Like!	Wiley Blevins
Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type	Doreen Cronin	More Pies	Michael Martchenko
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Jusith Barrett	Moustache	Margie Palatini
Diary of a Worm	Doreen Cronin	My First Action Rhymes	Illustrated by Lynne Cravath
Duck on a Bike	David Shannon	My First Songs	Illustrated by Jane Manning
Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers	Mary Ann Hoberman	One Duck Stuck	Phyllis Root
Frederick!	Leo Leonni	The Rain Came Down	David Shannon
The Frog Prince	Edith H. Tarcov	Red Riding Hood	James Marshall
Giggle, Giggle, Quack	Doreen Cronin	Rumpelstiltskin	Paul O. Zelinsky
The Gingerbread Man	Illustrated by Karen Schmidt	Silly Sally	Audrey Wood
Hippos Go Berzerk!	Sandra Boynton	Smelly Socks	Robert Munsch
How I Became a Pirate	Melinda Long	So Many Bunnies	Rick Walton
I Went Walking	Sue Williams	Tale of Peter Rabbit	Beatrix Potter

# Storytelling Booklist



## Title

There was a Bold Lady Who  
Wanted a Star

There was an Old Lady Who  
Swallowed a Fly

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

The Three Little Pigs

The Three Little Pigs

Three Little Wolves and the  
Big Bad Pig

The True Story of the Three  
Little Pigs

The Very Busy Spider

When Sophie Gets Angry...

Who Took the Cookies from the  
Cookie Jar?

Yikes!

Yo! Yes!

Zoom

## Author

Charise Mericle Harper

Simms Taback

Illustrated by Ellen  
Appleby

Barry Moser

James Marshall

Eugene Trivizas

Jon Scieszka

Eric Carle

Molly Bang

Bonnie Lass and Phile-  
mon Sturges

Robert Florczak

Chris Raschka

Robert Munsch

# Storytelling Activities

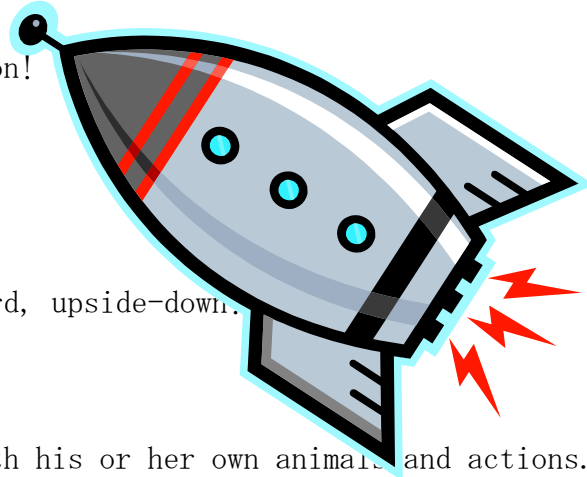
Zoom, Zoom, Zoom!

Zoom, zoom, zoom! We're going to the moon!

Do you want to take a trip?

Climb aboard my rocket ship!

5, 4, 3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!



**Silly Sally (by Audrey Wood)**

Silly Sally went to town, walking backward, upside-down.

On the way she met a pig.

Silly pig! He danced the jig!

(Ask your child to fill in the blanks with his or her own animals and actions.)

**Tiny Tim**

I have a little turtle.

His name is Tiny Tim.

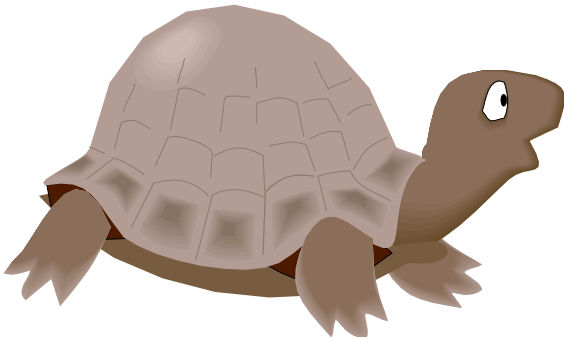
I put him in the bathtub to see if he could  
swim.

He drank up all the water.

He ate up all the soap.

And now he's sick in bed with a bubble in his  
throat.

Bigger...bigger....bigger...POP!



**I'm Being Eaten by a Boa Constrictor**

I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,

I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,

I'm being swallowed by a boa constrictor,

And I don't like it very much.

Oh no, he swallowed my toe.

Oh gee, he's up to my knee.

Oh fiddle, he's up to my middle,

Oh heck, he's up to my neck.

Oh dread, he swallowed my head... (slurp-swallow)



**Ring Around the Rosey**

Ring around the rosey!

A pocket full of poseys.

Ashes, ashes

We all fall down!

# Storytelling Activities



Mr. Wiggle & Mr. Waggle

## Story

Once there were two friends named Mr. Wiggle and Mr. Waggle.

They lived in identical houses.

Mr. Wiggle went in his house like this: He opened the door, went inside, and closed the door.

Mr. Waggle went into his house like this: He opened the door, went inside, and closed the door.

One day, Mr. Wiggle decided to visit Mr. Waggle. He opened the door, came outside, and closed the door.

Then he went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill until he reached the home of Mr. Waggle.

He knocked on the door. \*Knock, knock, knock!\* And he called out, "Oh, Mr. Waaaaaguuuuul!"

But Mr. Waggle didn't answer. So Mr. Wiggle knocked again and yelled louder, "Oh, Mr. Waaaaaaguuuuuuul!"

But there was still no answer! Mr. Wiggle knocked even louder and yelled again, "Oh, Mr. Waaaaaaguuuuuuul!"

But there was still no answer.

So Mr. Wiggle decided to go home. He went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill until he reached his own house.

He opened the door, stepped inside, and closed the door.

## Gestures

Hold up two thumbs, fists closed, and look at each thumb as you say their names.

Your fists are the houses.

Open your right hand, pull your thumb down onto your palm, and close your fist over your thumb.

Repeat above motions

Open right hand, pop up thumb, and close your fist.

Point your thumb up, then down the hill, and up, and down, until your right hand reaches your left fist.

Knock one fist against the other and call out.

Knock one fist against the other and call out.

Knock one fist against the other and call out.

Knock several times and call out.

Make your thumb travel back down the hill and up the hill until it reaches home.

Open your right hand, pull your thumb down onto your palm, and close your fist over your thumb.

# Storytelling Activities

Mr. Wiggle & Mr. Waggle (cont.)

And wouldn't you know it, Mr. Waggle decided to visit Mr. Wiggle the very next day!

Repeat the same motions, but with the other hand.

He opened the door, stepped outside, and closed the door.

And he went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill until he reached the home of Mr. Wiggle.

He knocked on the door. \*Knock, knock, knock!\* And he called out, "Oh, Mr. Wiggle!"

But Mr. Wiggle didn't answer. So Mr. Waggle knocked again and yelled louder, "Oh, Mr. Wiggle!"

But still there was no answer. So Mr. Waggle knocked as loud as he could and called out, "Oh, Mr. Wiggle!"

But there was still no answer.

So Mr. Waggle decided to go home. He went down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill until he reached his own house.

He opened the door, stepped inside, and closed the door.

Well, wouldn't you know it! The next morning, Mr. Wiggle AND Mr. Waggle decided to go visit each other!

Repeat the same motions with both hands.

They both opened their doors, they both stepped outside, and they both closed their doors at the same time.

And they both went up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up!

And they met at the top of the hill!



# Storytelling Activities

Mr. Wiggle & Mr. Waggle (cont.)

They shared the news, they shared the gossip, they talked about hills, and doors and the ups and downs of life, and when they had said everything they had wanted to say, they said

“Good-bye!”

“Good-bye!”

And they both went home.

They both went down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill and down the hill and up the hill until they got to their own houses.

They opened the doors, stepped inside, and closed the doors at the same time.

The next time they wanted to talk, they used the telephone!





# Storytelling Additional Websites

## *Dragon Tales* Activities

Ideas for parents to use Dragon Tales video clips as part of the Learning Triangle  
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/dragontales/resources.html>

## *Silly Sally* Activities

Based on the Audrey Wood book, this website provides illustrations for your child to print out and color.

## Leading to Reading

Listen to nursery rhymes and other stories, or play games, by age group  
<http://www.rif.org/kids/leadingtoreading/en/babies-toddlers/nursery-rhymes.htm#m>

